

WASHINGTON SPARK!

A monthly newsletter
from the city
government of
Washington, Georgia.

Empowering our
citizens through
public information.
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GIVE TO TOYS FOR TOTS

Wilkes County and the City of Washington emergency officials are collecting toys for needy children again this Christmas season. In 2014, those officials helped deliver toys to 133 families benefiting 309 children. They need your help again. "We have some good people here in Wilkes County" said Blake Thompson, chairman of the local Toys for Tots campaign.

Thompson is director of the Wilkes County Emergency Medical Service (EMS). His co-chairman for the toy drive is Chief C.J. Gilland of the Washington Fire Department. Meanwhile, paramedic supervisor Delores Moore is providing important logistical and clerical support to the effort.

They hope the community will help them give children in need an even better Christmas than they had last year. "Each kid got at least three toys," Thompson said. But only 66 families got bicycles, out of 120 families who requested bikes. Family needs were a major factor in deciding who got bikes, and that will continue to be the case this year.

Not including bikes, the local Toys for Tots program collected and distributed enough toys in 2014 to fill 300 cubic feet of boxes. That success was partly due to a more than \$9,500 donation that the City of Washington gave from a gift-giving fund that the former Police Department managed before it closed. Now, "Toys for Tots" needs your help again.

Unwrapped toys and monetary donations will be accepted at the Wilkes EMS building behind Wills Memorial Hospital, at the Washington Fire Dept. on Court Street, at City Hall and other participating locations.

Families can apply to get gifts from "Toys for Tots" by filling out a form that will be published in *The News-Reporter*. Thompson encourages applicants to submit their application to him as soon as possible by dropping it off at the EMS office. **Deadline for applications to be submitted is Dec. 4th.** EMS staff will be on hand at the Pope Center Dec. 1st thru 4th, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. taking applications. Toys will be distributed at the Pope Center Dec. 23 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. **Recipients must be Wilkes County residents age 12 or younger.** For questions on the "Toys for Tots" program, contact Thompson at (706) 319-2237.

Thompson also encourages you to donate food to God's Marketplace food bank to help feed hungry families this Holiday Season. For information on how to make a food donation call God's Marketplace at (706) 678-6363.

Tired of your daily commute??

Would you like more time with your family? It's time to return to Washington for work! Several local manufacturing companies are expanding their workforce to meet growing production demand. Staff One Plus is currently filling both general and skilled labor positions for local companies. Apply online at www.staffoneplusinc.com. Callaway Farms is also seeking general labor at their plant. Apply at 869 Callaway Road in Rayle or by calling 706-274-3392.



PLEASE ADOPT A NEEDY PET

Libby is a white Labrador-Pekingese mix that is friendly and playful. She is 1 year old, weighs 25 pounds and is vaccinated. Darren Altman (above) the new director of the Washington-Wilkes Animal Shelter, is training her to sit, as shelter worker Fernando Vazquez looks on. Please adopt Libby by calling (706) 678-2287.

Calendar: The City Council meets Monday, Nov. 9, at the Pope Center, 48 Lexington Ave. Work session begins at 5:00 p.m. Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. City offices are closed for Thanksgiving on Nov. 26.

PLEASE WRITE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FOR CITY OFFICIALS ON BACK OF YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT STUB. THANKS!

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Ames Barnett, Robert Armour, Travis Armour, Nathaniel Cullars Sr., Kimberly Rainey, Mike Scarborough and Marion Tutt Jr. Please visit www.cityofwashingtonga.gov.

